

**Pammene snellenana mihi nov. spec.**

by

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Shortly before the war I visited Mr. F. N. P i e r c e at his home at Warmington where I had the great pleasure of staying with him for some days. During this stay we had some most interesting discussions on various Lepidoptera questions. The most interesting one was about *Pammene vernana* Knaggs which according to S n e l l e n is a distinct species. Mr. P i e r c e however proved to me that this *vernana* was merely a variety of *Pammene argyrana* Hb. in which the light dorsal patch of the typical *argyrana* was so heavily darkened with fuscous scales that it was hardly to be distinguished as a dorsal patch at all. When he showed me a series of these *vernana* I immediately saw that he was right. But when we compared his series with my specimen of *vernana* we saw at first glance that they did not agree. Happily I had taken a specimen with me, one of the few existing original ones described by Snellen himself in „De Vlinders van Nederland” II. 1. page 380. Although this specimen somewhat resembled *argyrana* var. *vernana* it was evident it could not possibly be this species. Mr. P i e r c e then examined the genitalia which did not agree with any *Pammene* species, nor with any others closely related to them. As I was going up to London after my visit to Mr. P i e r c e he advised me to further investigate the matter at the South Kensington Natural History Museum. This took place very soon after, and it was at this Museum that Mr. B i s s e t and I we went through all the Palaearctic collections and there we looked over all the *Pammene* species and others closely related to them, but none of these resembled S n e l l e n's *vernana* in the least. *Sphaeroeca obscurana* Sph. is in fact the only species which might eventually be mistaken for S n e l l e n's *vernana*, and this has already happened more than once. Fresh specimens of *obscurana* however cannot be confused with *vernana*, and Mr. P i e r c e has also compared the genitalia of both which differ distinctly.

Mr. B i s s e t expected S n e l l e n's *vernana* might be an unknown species, and he therefore advised me to examine all further publications on the subject to be sure that it had not already been described. During the last years I have investigated this case as far as available publications made it possible. The results were negative, so that I can accept S n e l l e n's *vernana* to be a still unknown species. Out of gratitude to the late Mr. P i e r c e and to Mr. B i s s e t for their careful examination of the genitalia and

of the wing designs, I determined to call this new species after our well known Microlepidoptera authority P. C. T. Snellen to whom we owe this new discovery: *Pammene snellenana* mihi nov. spec.

As regards a description of this new species I believe I cannot give you a better one than Snellen's own of *Pammene vernana* Knaggs in his well known book „De Vlinders van Nederland” II. 1. page 380.